



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JUN 28 2002

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to greet you on this great day for Milwaukee and Wisconsin — the day you break ground for the Heart Hospital of Milwaukee.

As your governor for 14 years, nothing was more important to me than the health and well-being of my fellow Wisconsinites. Now, as Secretary of Health and Human Services, I'm focused on the health of all Americans. But I don't mind saying that it's still Wisconsin that holds a special place in my heart. That's why it's such a joy to know that Milwaukee and MedCath are joining to improve the quality of cardiovascular care in Wisconsin.

This is the sort of public-private partnership, combining the resources of government with the innovation of the business world, that makes America great. In teaming together to find new ways to serve your fellow Americans, you truly have shown yourselves to be foot soldiers in what our President called "the armies of compassion." It's something to be proud of.

As I said, this is a great day for Milwaukee and Wisconsin. On this site, you'll do more than just treat heart disease. You'll give a father another day with his daughter. You'll give a son a chance to have his own children. You'll give a mother the time to see her grandchildren. You'll save lives, my friends, and there is no higher calling.

For all this, and on behalf of the President of the United States, let me say — thank you. And on my own behalf, congratulations on helping cement Milwaukee's status as a first-class American city.

Sincerely,

Tommy G. Thompson